

# TIME

## The Next Leader Of Europe\*

\*If Only  
He Can  
Lead  
France

AN INTERVIEW  
WITH 39-YEAR-OLD  
PRESIDENT  
**EMMANUEL  
MACRON**  
BY VIVIENNE WALT





**2 | Conversation**  
**4 | For the Record**

**The Brief**

News from the U.S. and around the world

**5 | Election Day's winners and losers**

**7 | The "Paradise Papers" reveal offshore deals of the rich and famous**

**10 | The Saudi Crown Prince's purge for power. Plus: Ian Bremmer on what it means for the world**

**12 | President Trump's tour of Asia**

**16 | Gold Star father Khizr Khan on family and patriotism**

**The View**

Ideas, opinion, innovations

**17 | When women's influence reaches critical mass**

**18 | Finding ourselves in God**

**19 | How art helps veterans heal**

**19 | Former CBS anchor Dan Rather on what unites us**

**The Features**

**Macron Talks With TIME**

French President Emmanuel Macron says he does not want to be the leader of Europe, let alone the free world. But for now he just may have the job  
*By Vivienne Walt 20*

**The Texas Massacre**

When domestic abusers get their hands on lethal weapons  
*By Charlotte Alter 28*  
**Plus:** Churches focus on safety  
*By Elizabeth Dias 33*

**Life After Addiction**

America's opioid crisis has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. How one couple hit rock bottom—before bouncing back  
*By Alice Park 34*

**Time Off**

What to watch, read, see and do

**43 | A conversation with filmmakers Spike Lee and Dee Rees**

**46 | Kenneth Branagh on making *Murder on the Orient Express***

**48 | Barack Obama's photographer looks back on history**

**49 | Sharon Jones' finale, *Soul of a Woman***

**51 | Kristin van Ogtrop's dogs call the shots**

**52 | 7 Questions for singer and activist Mavis Staples**

**President Macron, shadowed by his Labrador retriever Nemo, welcomes a visitor to the Élysée Palace on Aug. 28**

*Photograph by Christophe Marin—IP3/Getty Images*

**ON THE COVER:** Emmanuel Macron in the Élysée Palace on Nov. 7. *Photograph by Nadav Kander for TIME*

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**OFF THE MARK**

RE "THE GODDESS MYTH" [Oct. 30]: Why is the woman on your cover naked? I never saw my mother naked, yet she was and forever shall be the most dynamic personification of motherhood I will ever know. Should you ever produce a fatherhood edition of TIME, will the man on the cover be naked? I get the goddess analogy and that ancient goddesses were sometimes portrayed naked. But not always. I'm no prude. I would simply be interested to know why you chose to portray motherhood this way.

*Kerry Wright,*  
NAMBURCA HEADS,  
AUSTRALIA

I FIND IT IRONIC THAT THE very week after your report on Harvey Weinstein's inappropriate sexual advances and the exploiting of women, you have a cover showing a nude woman and baby. Society doesn't always understand that if a woman's nude body is portrayed as something to be celebrated in public viewing, there is a correlation between this and sexual predation. We are accepting the attached baggage of sexism, sexual harassment and worse. We are kidding ourselves if we think we can indulge in viewing provocatively dressed or nude women and not have it carry

over into our attitudes and even behavior.

*R. Mortensen,* PHOENIX

GIVING BIRTH IS PROBABLY the most personal and excruciatingly overpowering experience any woman can go through in the course of her life. It can also be exhilarating, but it was never meant to be easy or totally under our control. Whether a woman goes through this experience naturally or not, the act of giving birth will always be a messy and painful business neither subjectable to a woman's willpower nor to her wishful thinking. The notion of being a goddess was born out of ancient Greek mythology. The term was not meant to be associated with us humans, and any mother-to-be who finds herself striving for this otherworldly mythical status needs to quickly recalibrate her expectations.

*Gianna Stefanurto,* MUNICH

**OUT OF ORDER**

RE "THE BRIEF" [OCT. 30]: While it was quite spectacular that the Ironman World Championship time record was broken by Patrick Lange, I continue to be disappointed when men's athletic accomplishments are noted before a woman's in the same event. These are the subtle messages that my daughters are presented with that suggest



men's accomplishments in the same field are superior to women's. Let's flip the order every now and again.

*Megan Cook,*  
PORTLAND, ORE.

**LAW AND FAITH**

RE "THE CRUSADER" [Oct. 30]: Just what America needs is another 19th century biblical purist like Alabama's senatorial aspirant Roy Moore, because the view of most international observers is that America is surely going to hell!

*Bob Barnes,*  
WEDDERBURN, AUSTRALIA

ONE OF THE PICTURE CAPTIONS in this article says, "Moore brandishes a handgun while speaking about Second Amendment rights." Since Moore had the Ten Commandments adorning his courthouse (and above his bed), he would know the

injunction that "Thou shalt not kill." Commandment trumps amendment.

*James Derounian,*  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE,  
ENGLAND

THIS ARTICLE MADE ME cringe. I am not an attorney, but even I am aware of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which bars the government from making laws "respecting an establishment of religion." Moore seems unaware of its existence. The Founding Fathers could have easily established the U.S. as a theocracy. They did not. They took great pains to ensure that this country would not be ruled by those who feel their religious beliefs, and theirs alone, are sacrosanct. Americans do not need their own version of the Taliban.

*James Wells,*  
TACOMA, WASH.

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